

EXHIBIT 3

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK
CASE NO.: 1:19-CV-09156 (LTS) (KHP)

- - - - - x

GRAHAM CHASE ROBINSON,

Plaintiff,

- against -

ROBERT DE NIRO and CANAL PRODUCTIONS, INC.,

Defendants.

- - - - - x

VOLUME III
ZOOM VIDEOCONFERENCE DEPOSITION OF
ROBERT DE NIRO
October 21, 2022

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1 That's it.

2 Q. Okay.

3 And who did you speak with?

4 A. Tom Harvey and Greg and Laurent.

5 Q. And how long did you speak?

6 A. Forty-five minutes, half an hour.

7 Q. And when was that?

8 A. Yesterday.

9 Q. Any other time did you speak with
10 those individuals or anyone else about this
11 deposition today?

12 A. A little, a week or two or three
13 ago. Tom Harvey for a few minutes. That was
14 it. That's it.

15 Q. Did you speak with anyone about your
16 last deposition since the time we were last
17 together until today?

18 A. No.

19 Q. Okay.

20 Have you read any materials in
21 preparation for today's deposition?

22 A. No.

23 Q. All right.

24 We're going to share, to start
25 today, a document with you in the chat that's

1 Bates stamped CANAL 1844. We previously
2 identified this document as Plaintiff's Exhibit
3 122.

4 Can you see that?

5 A. I don't see it yet.

6 Q. Okay.

7 We'll get it for you.

8 MR. DROGIN: Do you want to
9 screen share?

10 MR. SANFORD: It is not open.

11 All right. We'll get back to that.

12 How about that?

13 BY MR. SANFORD:

14 Q. Let me ask you some questions
15 instead before we review a document.

16 Mr. DeNiro, do you believe that you
17 were generous with Ms. Robinson?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. In what ways?

20 A. I gave her what she wanted, even
21 titles that she was pressuring me about which I
22 thought were -- in the one sense really
23 meaningless because they were not real titles,
24 but she wanted them.

25 And so, I said okay, if you

1 really -- after a lot of pressuring, I said
2 okay. It really didn't mean anything, but I
3 gave them to her.

4 Q. Were there any other ways in which
5 you were generous to Ms. Robinson?

6 A. I paid her well.

7 Q. Anything else?

8 A. I was pretty trusting with
9 everything. You know, she would say "Look, this
10 is it, that I need this or that."

11 I would say, "Okay, if you say so,
12 if you think that's -- go ahead."

13 As I say, for me it was the honor
14 system. You do the right thing. That's it.
15 Okay. Fine.

16 Q. Were you generous to Ms. Robinson
17 when it came to expenses you paid for?

18 A. Yes, I think I was.

19 Q. Were you generous to Ms. Robinson
20 when it came to her travel?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. Were you generous to Ms. Robinson in
23 allowing her to work outside of New York?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. How so?

1 A. She told me she wanted to move to
2 work from Spain, from England. There might have
3 been one other place. LA. And I said as long
4 as you can get things done, fine, you know.

5 Q. Were you generous to Ms. Robinson
6 with respect to sky miles?

7 A. Well, to a point. She used the sky
8 miles. I would say to her be careful because my
9 kids need them at times, so I want to make sure
10 that they're available for the kids who will
11 possibly need to travel somewhere.

12 Q. Sorry.

13 Was there ever a time in
14 Ms. Robinson's employment when you told her that
15 she was not authorized to use Canal sky miles?

16 A. I don't remember. I pretty much
17 left that up to her in the way that she would do
18 it. Again, I was totally trusting in that
19 regard. I just didn't have a reason not to
20 trust her.

21 Q. Was there ever a time when
22 Ms. Robinson asked to take a trip for work or
23 for personal reasons that you told her she could
24 not use Canal sky miles?

25 A. Not that I remember. I was pretty,

1 pretty okay with it. She would give me a reason
2 and I would say okay.

3 Q. So during Ms. Robinson's employment,
4 who besides you and Ms. Robinson knew the
5 specifics of what expenses Ms. Robinson was
6 authorized to charge to Canal?

7 MR. DROGIN: Objection to the
8 form.

9 Go ahead.

10 BY MR. SANFORD:

11 Q. Was there anyone else? You can
12 answer the question if you understand. But
13 basically the question is, was there anyone else
14 besides you and Ms. Robinson who knew the
15 specifics of what expenses Ms. Robinson was
16 authorized?

17 MR. DROGIN: Same objection to
18 the form.

19 Go right ahead.

20 A. Well, I mean, not that I would -- it
21 would be her and that would be it. Unless my
22 accountants would have to be aware of something
23 that I would then assume, which I shouldn't
24 have, that she would apprise them of whatever
25 needed to -- whatever they needed to be apprised

1 A. Not really, no. Specifically, no.

2 Q. What is your best understanding of
3 what the value is of sky miles?

4 A. Well, I understand that they're
5 valuable and I was given the equivalent, I
6 guess, in terms of dollars at one point, but
7 I've forgotten. But they were valuable and they
8 were taken from me when they shouldn't have been
9 and that's not right.

10 Q. So, I mean, do you have any sense at
11 all like what one sky mile is worth? Is it
12 worth pennies?

13 A. No, I don't.

14 Q. Is it worth a dollar? Do you have
15 any idea at all?

16 A. No, I don't know. I guess you would
17 translate the miles and traveling and what class
18 you're going under. You could break it down, I
19 suppose, yes.

20 Q. You generally preferred to fly
21 private, right, not commercial? Is that a
22 fair --

23 A. When I can. Not always, but when I
24 can.

25 Q. And when you, when you fly

1 commercial, do you have a preferred airlines you
2 like?

3 A. No. I mean, we might have because
4 of the sky miles, Chase could have said, "Well,
5 we're going to [REDACTED] or we should go
6 [REDACTED]. We have the sky miles."

7 So I would go [REDACTED].

8 Q. And you liked [REDACTED] because
9 [REDACTED] has first class and you like to travel
10 first class?

11 A. Yes, that could be, yes, that's it.

12 Q. And you understand and have
13 understood that [REDACTED] doesn't have first class,
14 right?

15 A. Yes, it has a good business class,
16 but not first class. I mean, I have flown [REDACTED]
17 a few times.

18 Q. And you preferred the first class
19 over the business class; is that a fair
20 statement?

21 A. If I have to get somewhere and I
22 don't have a first class and I would have to
23 take a [REDACTED] business, I'll take it.

24 Q. Right. I understand.

25 But my question is rather, you

1 prefer first class over business class. That's
2 a fair statement, right?

3 A. In general you could say that, yes,
4 yes.

5 Q. Mr. DeNiro, at the last deposition,
6 you agreed to look at the individual charges
7 that Canal accused Ms. Robinson of improperly
8 charging and come prepared today to answer
9 questions about the charges.

10 Have you done that, sir?

11 MR. DROGIN: Objection.

12 Objection to the form.

13 This deposition is being
14 conducted pursuant to a specific court
15 order. So whatever the witness may have
16 agreed to you with is not binding on him
17 here today, and you don't make deals
18 with the witnesses as to what -- witness
19 as to what he's going to do.

20 So I'm going to object to that
21 question, and whether we direct him not
22 to answer and call the court will depend
23 on how you comport yourself.

24 MR. SANFORD: Thank you for that
25 speech, Laurent.

1 MR. DROGIN: You're welcome.

2 BY MR. SANFORD:

3 Q. My question, Mr. DeNiro, is you
4 agreed to look at individual charges.

5 Have you done so?

6 A. I have at one point. I can't
7 remember the last time I did it, but in
8 preparation for the last deposition, I did look
9 at them.

10 I had to look and get a fair idea
11 and before that just to know what was taken from
12 me.

13 Q. And were you able to identify a
14 single charge that you contend was improper?

15 A. There were. I can't at this moment
16 get specific. I know she did take things that
17 very clearly she shouldn't have.

18 Q. Right.

19 But in the last deposition you
20 couldn't get specific either, and that's why I
21 asked if you would be so kind as to review the
22 charges and come prepared to discuss them.

23 You're not prepared to do that?

24 A. No, I'm not.

25 Q. Because you don't know of any

1 trusting her again a hundred percent. You say
2 so, then you do it. I know you're going to do
3 the right thing.

4 She didn't. She took a lot more
5 miles, sky miles. She shouldn't have done that.
6 All I can say is, you know, shame on her.

7 Q. You have used the term checks and
8 balances in reference to your accountants. Can
9 you explain what checks and balances your
10 accountants provided for Canal Productions?

11 A. Can you be more specific?

12 Q. Well, in the last deposition, you
13 referenced checks and balances; that your
14 accountants served as basically a check and a
15 balance on the system.

16 And I'm just wondering, you know,
17 what kind of checks and balances your
18 accountants provided for Canal.

19 A. Well, checks and balances are the
20 people -- there are other people in this whole
21 situation who, if they sense something that is
22 out of whack or improper, they'll draw my
23 attention to it.

24 I gave Chase a lot of power in a
25 way, and I didn't know that she would abuse it.

1 time. I mean, she did good things. She
2 bamboozled me. She had an angle that I'm sorry
3 that she did. She would still be working for
4 me.

5 Q. And you're just a bad judge of
6 character then, aren't you?

7 A. Sometimes I am. And sometimes I
8 trust people even though I know they're going to
9 probably, they're probably going to do something
10 that's not nice and I give them -- I give them
11 the benefit of the doubt.

12 Q. And you're just a victim here as you
13 view yourself?

14 A. I am a victim. You're damn right
15 I'm a victim.

16 Q. And you feel victimized, don't you?

17 A. I sure do. And I'm not a person
18 that likes to whine that I'm being victimized,
19 but I am being victimized at this time.

20 Q. Do you think you're whining?

21 A. I'm not whining. Not at all.

22 Q. You're just victimized.

23 Did you ever express any concern to
24 Ms. Robinson or anyone else about her spending
25 before her employment at Canal ended?

1 MR. DROGIN: Objection to the
2 form.

3 A. I don't remember that. No.

4 BY MR. SANFORD:

5 Q. Did you ever express any concern to
6 Ms. Robinson about use of sky miles before her
7 employment at Canal ended?

8 MR. DROGIN: Objection to the
9 form.

10 A. Yes, I can't remember.

11 BY MR. SANFORD:

12 Q. Before Ms. Robinson's employment at
13 Canal ended, did your accountants ever bring to
14 your attention any concern about Ms. Robinson's
15 spending?

16 A. I don't remember. They might have.
17 You know, I was so trusting with her that she
18 questioned everything about every person I
19 worked with.

20 And I said, well, if you question
21 it, then let me just see. Maybe there is
22 something. Foolishly, you know, I bought into a
23 little of that.

24 And so, they might have been a
25 little afraid because I gave her a certain

1 amount of power that was -- that I shouldn't
2 have, and she abused it. And people were wary
3 of her. And I'm sorry that I did that, and I've
4 apologized to some of my people who work for me
5 because, you know, it shouldn't have happened.

6 Q. Before Ms. Robinson's employment at
7 Canal ended, did your accountant ever bring to
8 your attention any concern about Ms. Robinson's
9 use of sky miles?

10 MR. DROGIN: Objection to the
11 form.

12 You can answer it.

13 A. Well, all I remember is that after
14 she resigned, I was made aware that she had
15 taken a lot of sky miles that she was not
16 entitled to. I never gave her permission to
17 take them. She just helped herself.

18 BY MR. SANFORD:

19 Q. Do you still employ Berdon LLP as
20 your accountants?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. Do you still employ Berdon LLP as
23 the accountants for Canal Productions?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. How long has Tom Harvey been general

1 counsel for Canal?

2 A. It has been many years. I can't
3 remember. Twenty or more.

4 Q. During Ms. Robinson's employment at
5 Canal, Ms. Robinson performed work for you while
6 she was away from New York, correct?

7 A. Right, yes.

8 Q. And it didn't make a difference to
9 you whether she was in London, Spain, Los
10 Angeles or anywhere else as long as she got her
11 job done, right?

12 A. It made a difference and I allowed
13 it because I allowed her to go there as long as
14 she felt she could do the work from those
15 places.

16 I guess most employers wouldn't
17 even -- this was before the pandemic. Most
18 employers would have said, look, that's not
19 going to fly with me. Some do, maybe.

20 And I was very, very loose with her.
21 I let her do it. I didn't, you know -- I said
22 "As long as you're there, as long as you take
23 care of business, I'm fine with it. I'm not
24 sure about it, but if you say so, I'm going to
25 trust you on that."

1 o'clock a.m.)

2 THE VIDEOGRAPHER: The time is
3 11:56 a.m.

4 We are back on the record.

5 BY MR. SANFORD:

6 Q. Okay.

7 Mr. DeNiro, you understand you're
8 still under oath?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. All right.

11 If Ms. Robinson performed work for
12 you while she was in London or Spain or Los
13 Angeles or anywhere else in the world, for that
14 matter, she would be paid just as much as if she
15 had been working in New York, correct?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. And you would pay Ms. Robinson for
18 days she worked for you regardless of where she
19 performed the work, right?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. And there were times when
22 Ms. Robinson performed errands for you in
23 London, right?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. And if you knew Ms. Robinson was

1 BY MR. SANFORD:

2 Q. All right.

3 Mr. DeNiro, you understand you're
4 still under oath?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. All right.

7 If Ms. Robinson ended up working on
8 a day that she was supposed to be on vacation,
9 would you treat that as a working day or a
10 vacation day?

11 MR. DROGIN: Objection to the
12 form.

13 A. I would -- if she said it was a
14 vacation day and she is working, I would say
15 "Okay. Then you know what you do. You charge
16 me for the time that you're working."

17 She -- what I have always noticed is
18 that she was always working, always working,
19 doing this, doing that, always kind of
20 intimating to everybody how hard she worked.

21 I said okay. She was charging me.
22 I paid her well. Probably more than I should
23 have, but I said okay.

24 So what can I say? If she tells me
25 she is working or she claims she is working, I

1 top of it, so I'm owed a vacation day."

2 She, to me, as I learned as time
3 went on, finagled a little bit, schemed a
4 little. Okay. You know, even that I will
5 allow.

6 But there is a point where you just
7 are doing too much. You're overreaching too
8 much, taking advantage too much. And you get
9 tired of it. That's all. So that's why I was
10 relieved when she, she resigned.

11 Q. But if she wound up working on a day
12 she was supposed to be on vacation, and working
13 as you understood work to be, you would not
14 require her to --

15 A. She rarely told me that, "Oh, I
16 should be on vacation today, but I'll work now
17 that you asked me to do this or that."

18 I left it up to her totally. She
19 decided her work hours. She decided everything.
20 And I trusted her. Do you understand? Do you
21 understand what that means?

22 Q. Mr. DeNiro -- and I trust you to be
23 faithful to this process and that means --

24 A. Yes, I'm being faithful. I'm
25 answering your question. What more do you want?

1 A. Can you slow down a little, please?

2 All right. These are what?

3 Q. And so, it says "Hi, Michael. Below
4 are the bonuses and vacation payback numbers for
5 this year."

6 A. We're going back a couple of years,
7 each one. Now this is 2017.

8 Q. '17.

9 A. Okay. Let me just read this.
10 Sorry.

11 Q. So, let's stop here.

12 You have vacation day payback. What
13 does that term mean, vacation day payback?

14 A. Well, what it means to me is that
15 she wanted payback for days that she worked on
16 her vacation, which I totally believed her on.
17 I had no reason to not believe her. I trusted
18 her.

19 Q. Okay. All right.

20 Keep going down. Keep going down.

21 All right.

22 Did you ever --

23 A. I don't -- I mean --

24 Q. Okay.

25 Generally speaking, these are

1 e-mails that you received from Ms. Robinson at
2 year's end discussing the bonuses and other
3 year-end pay that Canal employees would be
4 receiving, right?

5 A. Uh-hum.

6 Q. Is that yes?

7 A. Say that again, I'm sorry.

8 Q. These are e-mails that you received
9 from Ms. Robinson at the year's end discussing
10 the bonuses and any other year-end pay that
11 Canal employees would be receiving, right?

12 A. Right, right.

13 Q. And before you received these
14 e-mails from Ms. Robinson, you and Ms. Robinson
15 would go over the bonuses and other year-end pay
16 that Canal employees would be receiving, right?
17 You would meet with her to discuss it?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. And at the end of each year, you and
20 Ms. Robinson would have a phone call or
21 in-person meeting to go over bonuses and
22 vacation payback that Canal employees would be
23 receiving for the year, right?

24 A. Right.

25 Q. Can you describe for me the

1 discussions you and Ms. Robinson would have at
2 the end of each year about the bonuses and
3 vacation payback that Canal employees would be
4 receiving?

5 MR. BENNETT: During a 16-year
6 period of time or what year?

7 BY MR. SANFORD:

8 Q. Generally speaking, to the extent
9 you remember any of the conversations in any
10 year, you can describe that.

11 A. There would just be a conversation
12 about who was getting what for Christmas and
13 bonus, this and that, this and that, and that
14 would be it. And I would say okay, okay. I
15 might question something here and there.

16 Rarely did I question anything. I
17 would said okay, it looks okay to me, and that
18 was it.

19 Q. All right.

20 And during these year-end
21 discussions, Ms. Robinson would walk you through
22 the work she has done through the year during
23 vacations and the holidays, right?

24 MR. DROGIN: Objection to form.

25 A. Well, she would say I did this,

1 these are the days I want, like it shows here.
2 She didn't go into specifics of each day of what
3 I did on this day or that day; that's why I'm
4 entitled, I don't think.

5 I mean, maybe from time to time she
6 might have, saying "Oh, I worked, you know" -- I
7 don't remember.

8 Basically I just said, "Look, if
9 this is what you did and this is what you're
10 telling me you did, then fine. I accept that.
11 I might have a question here and there, but I
12 trust you." Period.

13 BY MR. SANFORD:

14 Q. All right.

15 During these year-end discussions,
16 you and Ms. Robinson would reach an agreement
17 regarding how many unused vacation days she
18 should be paid out for, right?

19 A. Well, sort of.

20 MR. DROGIN: Objection to the
21 form.

22 Go ahead.

23 A. It was even more loose than that.
24 She would say "These are my unpaid vacation
25 days."

1 And I would say "Okay. That's it.

2 All right. I'm taking you at your word."

3 Period.

4 BY MR. SANFORD:

5 Q. Well, during these year-end
6 discussions, you had the opportunity to ask
7 Ms. Robinson any questions you had about her
8 unused vacation days?

9 A. I had the opportunity and I also --
10 in a job like hers, the main thing is that you
11 can trust the person who works for you in such a
12 position because you don't have time to go over
13 a lot of things.

14 It is the No. 1 thing that that
15 person be trusted and -- that simple.
16 Honorable. It is assumed that there's nothing
17 to distrust about them. Period.

18 Q. During Ms. Robinson's employment,
19 you were able to follow up on any --

20 A. It is like -- it is like the
21 military guy that carries the suitcase next to
22 the president walking. You know what I mean?
23 You trust that person. I'm half kidding, but I
24 trust her to do the right thing. Period.

25 Q. During Ms. Robinson's employment,

1 you were able to follow up on any of the
2 information Ms. Robinson provided to you about
3 her unused vacation days?

4 A. I could, I could follow up on it,
5 and if I had to -- if I found there was a
6 discrepancy, of course I would.

7 That's why when she resigned, Tom
8 Harvey went back into looking into the certain
9 things she had claimed and not given back to me
10 and had helped herself to, I guess you could
11 say, and then there was a problem.

12 Q. And turning your attention back to
13 the e-mails in Exhibit 49 on the screen, during
14 Ms. Robinson's employment, did you ever dispute
15 anything that Ms. Robinson wrote in these
16 e-mails?

17 MR. DROGIN: Objection.

18 A. Very little. Again, I would say it
19 goes back to trust. I said look, you say this,
20 I'm not going to call it out unless I feel
21 there's something -- I said, wait a minute. I
22 don't remember. That's not what I was going to
23 do.

24 I needed her total support. I
25 needed to trust her totally. That's the whole

1 point with a position like this. Period.

2 BY MR. SANFORD:

3 Q. And after Ms. Robinson sent these
4 e-mails, did you follow up with her in any way
5 about her vacation days?

6 A. No, I didn't. I again trusted her.
7 I said "This is what you say. This is what I am
8 assuming that you have done. I have no reason
9 not to trust you and say what you say you have
10 done."

11 Q. And if you had disagreed with
12 anything in this Exhibit 49 in these e-mails,
13 you could have directed your accountant not to
14 issue payments, right?

15 A. I could have done that, but I don't
16 get into that kind of minutia type thing. We
17 have worked it out. I trust her. She is in
18 that position, and when she tells me something
19 like that, I expect that it is going to be
20 honorable. It is going to be just. It is going
21 to be right. She is going to do the right
22 thing. I can trust her. Again, back to trust.
23 It is built into the relationship.

24 Q. When Ms. Robinson wrote in 2015 that
25 she had used one vacation day, you were aware

1 other employees of mine and so on, and I don't
2 think any of them would ever say -- would go
3 along with what she is claiming because I just,
4 you know -- what can I say? I'm not -- I don't
5 know.

6 Q. So when Ms. Robinson accused you of
7 discrimination it made you angry, right?

8 A. Yes, right. She accused me of --
9 well, it would make me angry. If I did get
10 angry if she accused me of discrimination. I
11 personally think that she has mental -- I don't
12 want to go so far as to say mental issues, but
13 she has psychological issues and a sense of
14 entitlement and a blown-up sense of self that
15 makes her feel that she has been put upon in
16 some way and, therefore, she feels that she is
17 kind of like a victim.

18 And, I'm sorry, she wasn't a victim.
19 She victimized a lot of the other employees
20 because they resented her and overstepped.

21 But again, my fault. I apologized
22 to them for not keeping my eyes open to that
23 situation, and I hope to never have that again
24 ever with an employee.

25 Q. When Ms. Robinson accused you of

1 discrimination and other violations of
2 employment laws, did that cross a line for you?

3 A. Well, yes, it would cross a line
4 because it is not true.

5 Q. Are you aware of any aspects of
6 Canal's investigation into Ms. Robinson that
7 Canal employee Michael Kaplan was not involved
8 with?

9 MR. DROGIN: Objection to the
10 form.

11 A. I'm not, I'm not clear what you're
12 asking.

13 BY MR. SANFORD:

14 Q. Was Michael Kaplan involved in all
15 aspects of Canal's investigation into
16 Ms. Robinson, to your knowledge?

17 A. I don't know that. I don't have
18 that answer.

19 Q. Was Sabrina Weeks-Brittan involved
20 in all aspects of Canal's investigation into
21 Ms. Robinson?

22 A. Well, she was asked to find stuff
23 and go through all the e-mails and stuff like
24 that, as far as I know.

25 And Sabrina is quite, quite a

1 improperly charge to Canal, to your knowledge?

2 A. I'm not sure. I'm not sure.

3 Q. And do you know, had Michael Kaplan
4 been taking money from petty cash for personal
5 use? Does this refresh your recollection?

6 A. I don't know specifically, but I
7 know he had charged petty cash. So there was,
8 you know, some thought, well, what's happening
9 with that?

10 This is all a gray area that I
11 didn't -- again, if people are doing the right
12 thing, even if they're doing something that's
13 not quite a hundred percent kosher, I'll let it
14 slide.

15 Do something here -- you buy
16 something for yourself or lunch or do certain
17 things -- if you're outright stealing, that's a
18 problem.

19 I could never determine that. I was
20 never sure. I was never sure whether people
21 were helping themselves. I just was not -- I
22 didn't know. I never got anything from anyone
23 that could corroborate that. So it is where it
24 was.

25 Q. All right.

1 A. Would you have a little advice for
2 your daughter? "Don't do what Chase Robinson
3 did. I'm a lawyer. I'm representing her, but
4 don't do that. Let me tell you on the side, me
5 and you, honey."

6 Okay.

7 Q. So there's no, so there's no written
8 policy about \$1,000 --

9 A. This is a lot of bullshit. No,
10 there's no written policy. No, the policy is
11 trust. Trust.

12 Q. And you never communicated to
13 Ms. Robinson in any way orally or in writing
14 that she couldn't stay in a \$1,000 hotel?

15 A. She knew she couldn't do that and
16 abuse that. She knew it.

17 Q. How did she know it?

18 A. I don't have to tell her. And maybe
19 I did tell her. Maybe I said, you know, stay in
20 a -- that's part of working for the situation
21 she was in. Trust. You do the right thing.

22 Sabrina would not do that. Sabrina
23 would know. And if she had anything, she would
24 ask me. She would never dare do that.

25 Q. When Ms. Robinson took a work trip

1 for Canal, Canal would pay for her travel, her
2 lodging, and food expenses on the trip, right?

3 A. What?

4 Q. When Ms. Robinson took a work trip
5 for Canal, Canal would pay for her --

6 A. Listen, I trusted her to do the
7 work --

8 MR. DROGIN: It is just a "yes"
9 or "no" question.

10 A. Yes.

11 MR. DROGIN: Factually, is that
12 correct?

13 A. Expenses were paid with common
14 sense. That's the job. You understand that you
15 were supposed to behave responsibly, not abuse
16 the privilege.

17 MR. DROGIN: No, the question
18 is -- the question is simple. He's
19 simply asking that if she took a
20 work-related trip, those types of
21 expenses would be paid just as a matter
22 of fact.

23 A. No, not those type. Reasonable
24 expenses would be paid. Reasonable expenses
25 would be paid.

1 February 2019 to assist with items for your
2 townhouse?

3 A. I don't remember that. Oh now she's
4 saying that I made her come back from London
5 from work to come here to my townhouse to help
6 me do stuff which she should do. Give me a
7 break.

8 What's the question?

9 Q. Do you recall Ms. Robinson speaking
10 to you about returning to London around April of
11 2019?

12 A. That's about the time she gave me
13 her resignation.

14 Q. Before then obviously, but --

15 A. That was about the time because if
16 that was the time, that was when I was starting
17 to get fed up with her behavior. She said she
18 had stuff to do.

19 I'm trying to accommodate her going
20 back to London to go to work for me when I need
21 stuff in New York, and I was starting to be a
22 little -- starting to get a little agitated;
23 started to feel I'm being taken advantage of.

24 Q. All right.

25 Ms. Robinson sought your approval to

1 return to London around --

2 A. And I gave it to her.

3 Q. Okay.

4 A. Because I like to do the things for
5 people who work for me especially to be right
6 because I wanted them to be happy. I don't want
7 to be abused. I don't want to be taken
8 advantage of.

9 Q. And in 2019, you were going to be
10 shooting a film called The Comeback Trail,
11 right?

12 A. Yes, I guess it was.

13 Q. And do you recall Ms. Robinson
14 speaking to you about traveling to London
15 sometime between May and July of 2019 when you
16 were expected to be on set shooting The Comeback
17 Trail?

18 A. I don't remember. Whatever, I
19 guess. Who knows.

20 Q. Well, you were planning -- the film
21 was going to be shot out of New York, right?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. And so, do you remember approving
24 Ms. Robinson's plan to travel to London between
25 say around May and July of 2019 while you were

1 on set?

2 A. What's the point? What are you
3 asking? I'm not understanding what you are
4 asking.

5 Q. You approved Ms. Robinson being out
6 of New York while you were shooting a film?

7 A. I could have, yes. I could have.

8 Q. And you didn't ask Ms. Robinson for
9 the details about how many sky miles the trip to
10 London would cost, right?

11 A. I trusted her.

12 Q. So, is that a "no"?

13 A. T-r-u-s-t. Trust.

14 Q. Is that a "no"?

15 A. Do you have an assistant who you
16 trust?

17 MR. DROGIN: It is just a simple
18 "yes" or "no" question.

19 MR. SANFORD: Thank you, Laurent.

20 BY MR. SANFORD:

21 Q. Sometimes your attorney and I are
22 all on the same page.

23 A. Well, that's nice. That's nice to
24 hear.

25 Q. It is a nice thing, right?

1 A. He's not in my position. Even my
2 attorney is not in my position being asked, as
3 far as I'm concerned, idiotic questions, but go
4 ahead.

5 Q. All right.

6 Well, I'm asking a simple "yes" or
7 "no" to my question.

8 A. It is more complicated than that. I
9 said it is trust.

10 Q. Well, I understand you said that.
11 Now that you said that, can you answer my
12 question?

13 Which is, you didn't ask
14 Ms. Robinson for the details about how many sky
15 miles the trip to London would cost?

16 A. I didn't have to. I didn't have to.
17 That's up to her to say, listen, I take so many
18 sky miles to go to London. That's what I do. I
19 do it honorably, and I take so many to come
20 back. Period. So in that sense, I say yes.

21 Q. Do you recall Ms. Robinson speaking
22 to you about a friend's wedding that she wanted
23 to go to that would take place in Los Angeles in
24 June 2019?

25 A. Somewhere I remember that, yes.

1 Q. And in February 2019, Ms. Robinson
2 sought your approval to travel to her friend's
3 wedding that would take place in June of 2019,
4 right?

5 A. Uh-hum.

6 Q. Is that a "yes"?

7 A. So what are you saying? That I said
8 yes, she should go to that wedding? Probably I
9 did.

10 Q. Did you approve --

11 A. I didn't have to. I could have said
12 I'm not going to pay for you to go to that
13 wedding. She went on air miles, yes.

14 Q. And you didn't ask Ms. Robinson for
15 the details about how many sky miles --

16 A. No.

17 Q. -- to Los Angeles would cost?

18 A. No. Trust. Trust.

19 Q. Do you recall Ms. Robinson speaking
20 to you about wanting to take a trip to London
21 and Scotland in the summer of 2019?

22 MR. DROGIN: Objection.

23 Objection to the form. I think there's
24 just an ambiguity as to the dates.

25 You're talking about when she asked?

1 MR. SANFORD: Okay.

2 Thank you. I'll try to be
3 clearer.

4 BY MR. SANFORD:

5 Q. Do you recall, Mr. DeNiro, speaking
6 with Ms. Robinson at any time about her wanting
7 to take a trip to London and Scotland, a trip
8 that was going to be in the summer of 2019?

9 A. I could have, yes.

10 Q. Okay.

11 And do you remember Ms. Robinson
12 explaining to you that she wanted to visit
13 family on the Isle of Lewis?

14 A. She might have.

15 Q. And Ms. Robinson sought your
16 approval in advance to take a trip to London and
17 Scotland in the summer of 2019, didn't she?

18 A. Could have been. What is it, she
19 was going for vacation or she was asking me to
20 pay for it?

21 Q. Well, you didn't ask Ms. Robinson
22 for the details about how many sky miles the
23 trip to London and Scotland would cost, right?

24 A. No, I didn't. I didn't. I left it
25 up to her to determine that. That's her job.

1 The time is 1:36 p.m. We are
2 going off the record.

3 (Whereupon, at 1:36 o'clock
4 p.m., a recess was taken until 1:50
5 o'clock p.m.)

6 THE VIDEOGRAPHER: The time is
7 1:50 p.m.

8 We are back on the record.

9 BY MR. SANFORD:

10 Q. All right.

11 Mr. DeNiro, you understand you're
12 still under oath?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. All right.

15 If Ms. Robinson was traveling
16 somewhere on a trip that you directed her to
17 take, she was authorized to be reimbursed for
18 her transportation, lodging and food on that
19 work trip, right?

20 A. Yes, if it is a work trip. And,
21 again, it is up to her to responsibly determine
22 what she should pay for certain things. That's
23 all.

24 Q. Do you believe that Ms. Robinson
25 should be ordered to pay back any of the bonuses

1 you paid her during her employment?

2 A. I don't -- I don't care about that.
3 Let's move on. You know, let her enjoy whatever
4 bonuses I gave her. Good luck, you know.
5 Period.

6 Q. All right.

7 During Ms. Robinson's employment,
8 you could have told her that she couldn't use
9 sky miles but you didn't do that, right?

10 A. No, she brought it up to me to use
11 sky miles and I said, "Okay. That sounds good.
12 We can use the sky miles from American Express."

13 And the only time I questioned
14 anything about it, I said one of my kids was
15 saying they wanted to use sky miles and they
16 felt that they were being usurped or something.
17 I don't know whether it was a competitive thing
18 or they just felt that they looked into it
19 through somebody else in the office or Chase
20 said there was so much left. They said we don't
21 have sky miles.

22 And I said "Well, wait a minute. I
23 said, Chase, I want to make sure we have enough
24 for the kids." And I forget what her answer
25 was.

1 And then, of course, later she said
2 "Look, there's a lot of sky miles." This is
3 like a year later -- sky miles that I should put
4 into my thing in case I need it and so on.

5 And I said, "Well, if you think
6 that's what you should do, go ahead." Again,
7 trust.

8 Q. Let's go back to Exhibit 49 for a
9 minute.

10 MR. SANFORD: And once you have
11 that up, Simon, let me know.

12 MR. SCHAITKIN: It is on the
13 screen.

14 MR. SANFORD: Okay. Good.

15 BY MR. SANFORD:

16 Q. So my question, Mr. DeNiro, is you
17 authorized that Ms. Robinson be paid for all
18 unused vacation days that she identified in
19 these e-mails before you in Exhibit 49, right?

20 MR. DROGIN: Objection to the
21 form.

22 A. If she asked me to do it and I
23 looked at it, then I would have done it. I
24 said, you know, yes.

25

1 BY MR. SANFORD:

2 Q. Approximately how many conversations
3 do you remember having with Ms. Robinson in 2019
4 about her upcoming travel for the calendar year
5 2019?

6 A. I don't know. She just made me
7 aware she was going to go to London. And so,
8 that was something she was planning, and I
9 didn't oppose it. I don't know if I asked much
10 about it. I forget, if anything, and that was
11 it.

12 Q. And with respect to those
13 conversations you had with Ms. Robinson in 2019
14 about her travel in 2019, you didn't ask her
15 details about how many sky miles she would need
16 to transfer for the trip she was planning, did
17 you?

18 A. No, I don't ask. I just -- again,
19 trust.

20 Q. And is it fair to say you don't
21 remember the details of the conversations you
22 had with Ms. Robinson about her travel in 2019?

23 A. I mean --

24 MR. DROGIN: Objection to the
25 form.

1 A. Vaguely. I mean, I remember that
2 she asked or she said "Look, I want to go and I
3 said okay. You know, that's fine, as long as it
4 is done. I don't even have to say it, as long
5 as you do it responsibly."

6 Could I have said that one time,
7 maybe. But, you know, it is just like we know
8 what it is. Just do the right thing. Period.

9 BY MR. SANFORD:

10 Q. All right.

11 Is there anything else you remember
12 about those conversations you had with
13 Ms. Robinson about her travel in 2019?

14 A. Not, not offhand, no.

15 Q. Thinking back to your conversations
16 directly with Ms. Robinson, tell me everything
17 you remember saying and everything Ms. Robinson
18 said about the trip she took to Los Angeles in
19 March of 2018.

20 MR. DROGIN: Objection. We have
21 been over this. We're going backwards.

22 MR. SANFORD: It is the last
23 question I have on this topic, Laurent.

24 A. I didn't ask her anything.

25 MR. DROGIN: Can you read the

1 question back?

2 MR. SANFORD: Sure.

3 MR. DROGIN: Tell me everything
4 you remember.

5 BY MR. SANFORD:

6 Q. Well, thinking back to the
7 conversations you had with Ms. Robinson, I'm
8 asking if you can tell me everything you
9 remember about what you said to her and what she
10 said to you about the trip she took to
11 Los Angeles in March of 2018.

12 MR. DROGIN: Objection to the
13 form.

14 A. I don't remember much. That was the
15 trip to California. For what reason was she
16 going then?

17 BY MR. SANFORD:

18 Q. So you don't remember much.
19 All right.

20 MR. DROGIN: Objection to the
21 form.

22 BY MR. SANFORD:

23 Q. So let's share a document with you
24 in the chat. It is Bates stamped CANAL 46701,
25 which is an April 6, 2019 e-mail from Tiffany